GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1696
ANSWERED ON:30.07.2015
Socio-Economic Survey 2011
Mani Shri Jose K.

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether findings of the 2011 Socio- Economic and Caste Census released recently have thrown up new perspectives to revisit the formulation of rural development policies and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the said Census findings have thrown new light on the definition and incidence of poverty across rural India and if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether despite adoption of a different methodology to define and assess poverty vis-Ã -vis the Rangarajan panel, the Census Survey 2011 has more or less validated the poverty figures currently used by the Government to formulate its social welfare schemes and programmes and if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
(SHRI BIRENDER SINGH)

(a): Yes Madam. Seven deprivation parameters have been adopted to screen households for identifying poverty which is multidimensional. The new perspectives thrown up are the following. Households automatically excluded are 39.49 %, automatically included households are 0.92 % and the households with at least one deprivation are 48 %. The main running theme of deprivation identified is that the landless manual casual workers in rural India are the largest among the deprived households.

(b): Yes Madam. Insecure and uncertain incomes from casual and manual landless labourers are resulting in relatively high levels of incidence of poverty in rural India. The landless households deriving a major part of their incomes from manual casual labour is the single largest category of deprived persons at 29.97 % among others.

(c): The Rangarajan Committee report on poverty and the SECC findings on multidimensional poverty are based on entirely different approaches to concepts and measurements attempted. The Rangarajan report makes use of the NSSO data on consumption expenditures. It tells the absolute percentages and numbers of poor persons in rural and urban areas on the country. Whereas the SECC uses altogether new concepts and arrived at the multi dimensional nature of poverty. There has been no effort to arrive at the numbers of poor persons under SECC. The multidimensional nature of poverty arrived at in SECC could be used for devising various developmental schemes by departments and ministries at national and state levels.

*****